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PROGRESS OF THE WORLD

The Equal Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution, first urged by Susan B. Anthony half a century ago, was at last completely ratified and validated by the action of the Tennessee Legislature and immediately became a part of the "supreme law of the land," superseding or annulling all State constitutions or laws and judicial decisions to the contrary. The effect of this enormous expansion of the electorate remains to be fully seen, but judging from the result in the New Hampshire primaries it is to be awaited with equanimity and confidence.

'At the end of the Civil War there was much favorable comment upon the expedition and facility with which an army of a million men was disbanded and returned to civil life. But a few weeks ago we saw the complete demobilization and demolition of an army of more than three and a half millions, passing as a scarcely noticed minor item of the day's news. The incident was in itself gratifying, as proof of the essentially non-militaristic disposition of the American people. It was unspeakably deplorable in its reminder of the unprecedented breach of faith of which the Administration has been guilty toward that army. We refer to the failure to do the promised work of vocational education and of restoration of injured men to self-supporting efficiency. A numerous Government staff was organized at great expense for doing that work, which devoted its energies chiefly to repelling worthy applicants and to drawing for its own salaries the funds intended for the benefit of veterans. The result is that the legendary fate of Belisarius is realized and repeated ten thousand times in real life. The fault lies, of course, with the Administration, since the President under a special law, was invested with plenary

power in the matter, and power predicates commensurate responsibility.

The Department of Labor reports that there are about eight million unnaturalized aliens in this country, and asks the Legislatures of half the States to enact laws calculated to facilitate and to promote their naturalization. We are told that sixty per cent of them are desirous of becoming citizens, but are prevented from doing so by various technical conditions, chiefly their own illiteracy. Twenty-five per cent more are restrained from naturalization by ignorance of its methods, by superstition, and by the fact that they have relatives or property in the old country, and do not wish even to seem to alienate themselves therefrom. That leaves an insignificant fraction of the whole number actually opposed, *per se*, to naturalization. It is impossible to approve or to condone a system or practices through which it was possible to accumulate so vast a number of unnaturalized aliens in this country, and the abatement of the evil is urgently to be desired. Yet it would not be well to take so vast a mass of illiterate aliens at once into our citizenship. It will be worth while—it is incumbent upon them—for the various States to make earnest efforts, even at great expense, to educate the strangers within their gates at least sufficiently to enable them to gain some rudimentary knowledge of the rights and privileges of American citizenship and of the American political, industrial and social systems; and it will be best to wait until considerable progress has been made in that direction before making any omnium gatherum of aliens into citizenship.

The British Government has adopted an admirable method of utilizing the equipments of war for the service of peace. A number of its warships, largely obsolete for fighting purposes but fully efficient in all other respects, are being assigned to the uses of the Ministry of Agriculture, to be used as floating laboratories for the study of the formidable "foot and mouth disease" and the discovery, if possible, of a certain preventive or cure for it. These floating laboratories will not only be as perfectly equipped as any on shore could be, but also will have this immense additional advantage of being so isolated as to avoid any possible

danger of spreading the disease by contagion or even—it is conceivable—by air-borne infection. It will not, of course, be the first time that militant agencies have thus been employed for the welfare of humanity. While it was a civilian who first enunciated the theory of the insectile propagation of yellow fever, it was the United States Army that, at deadly risk and indeed at actual cost of precious life, demonstrated to the world the correctness of that theory and put it into effective practice. They were military men, also, who similarly dealt with the protean plagues of "malaria." The services of the navies of the world in exploration and survey and investigation have added immeasurably to the sum of profitable human knowledge of the world, while in the charting of reefs and destruction of derelicts they have made safe the highways of the Seven Seas for peaceful commerce. In now grappling with one of the most elusive and destructive of animal maladies, the economic cost of which to the world is enormous, a new and not insignificant item will be added to that fine record.

After Admiral Kolchak and General Denikine, Baron Wrangel; aiming to win where they were beaten. The bearer of an illustrious name, he commands sympathy by his methods rather than by his lineage. The fundamental principle of his campaign against Bolshevism in Southern Russia appears to be that of self determination for the people. We hear of no flamboyant schemes of extensive conquest, but merely of the redemption of those who desire it from Soviet despotism and the endowment of all behind his lines with the fullest measure of democratic rule. Such a campaign rests upon a substantial basis and deserves success. It may be the part of prudence and of wisdom thus to let Russians work out their own salvation, since any intervention might arouse suspicion and resentment and actually strengthen the hands of the Bolshevist tyrants. But there should be no objection whatever to recognition of accomplished facts. When Baron Wrangel wins the independence of a considerable region and establishes in it a government founded upon the will of the people and capable of performing the essential functions of a government, it will be fitting and indeed a moral duty to give it recognition. We are not, of course, to take advantage of the chaotic con-

dition of Russia to promote the partition or dissolution of that empire; but neither are we legally or morally bound to raise a hand or to speak a word to protect it from such partition or such revolution as its own people may desire. We must remember that our own Government was founded upon a revolution.

One of the strangest of political turn-overs is occurring in Cuba, where a general election for a new President and Congress is about to occur. Senor Montalvo, who was nominated for President by the Conservatives, the present Administration party, has retired from the race, for reasons doubtless appreciated at par value by himself, and in his place Dr. Alfredo Zayas has been selected. Now Dr. Zayas has always been an aggressive Liberal leader, and figured very conspicuously in at least one formidable attempt at revolution. 'He was the right-hand coadjutor and spokesman of José Miguel Gomez in the great treason which, with inexplicable American acquiescence, expelled Tomas Estrada Palma from the Presidency and caused a second period of American occupation, followed by the unfragrant administration of President Gomez. After that Dr. Zayas and General Gomez quarreled, over the spoils, and each of them became the leader of a faction of the dissevered Liberal party, the Zayistas being probably more numerous and more influential than the Miguelistas. Now Dr. Zayas becomes the candidate not only of the Zayista Liberal faction but also of the Conservative party, and should thus be assured of a handsome majority over General Gomez and the Miguelistas. 'He is a lawyer of unquestioned ability, as well as an astute politician, and his attitude toward the United States will, if he becomes President, probably be opportunist and usually friendly—more so than would be that of General Gomez, whose former administration bespeaks his unfitness for the place.

The British Government is confronted with an ominous attempt of the labor unions to dictate not merely its economic policy but also its general political and even its foreign policies, under pain of a universal strike which would paralyze its functions. The power of the unions may be estimated from the fact that they include in their mem-

bership 60 per cent of the male and 30 per cent of the female adult workers. Every important industry is unionized, and the union organization is strongest in the most important industries, such as railroads, shipping, mining, and agriculture. In such circumstances, the Government thinks it inevitably incumbent upon it to give most serious heed to a threat of universal strike as a protest against any action unfavorable to Soviet Russia. Obviously such yielding to trade union dictation weakens the authority of the Government and may cause it grave embarrassment. Yet to deny and defy it would probably precipitate a crisis in economic affairs if not an attempt at political revolution.

The peaceful and orderly election of Senor Alvaro Obregon as President of Mexico—though a General he prefers to be regarded as a civilian—is the most auspicious event in that much-troubled country since the abdication of Porfirio Diaz, and should be thus regarded and treated by our own Government. We have, of course, grievances against Mexico which must be righted. But the first step must be to give the new administration in that country full and cordial recognition. Then we can proceed with negotiations for the settlement of controversies. We could not thus proceed without such recognition. All that is known of the new Mexican President is favorable, and warrants hope that he will be able to restore that country to the peace, prosperity and friendly foreign relations which it enjoyed under Diaz, while, let us trust, giving it a more truly democratic government.

The Red revolts in Italy are the culmination of processes which have been in existence since long before the war. The fundamental trouble is the rivalry and clash of interests between agriculture in the south and technical industries in the north. Each section has been demanding legislation favorable to itself, and the Government has been unable to please both. For prudential reasons it has recently seemed wise to promote agriculture to a degree, and at that, deeming themselves neglected, many industrialists have revolted. Genuine Sovietism and Bolshevism can scarcely, however, flourish in the peninsula, and the restoration of law and order should speedily be effected.

The great improvement in the aspect of Polish affairs is cause for gratification, and for admonition. It is well to have that country redeemed, through its own gallant efforts, from Bolshevik invasion, and we must admire its spirit in declining to be bound literally by the highly artificial boundary lines drawn by the Great Powers. Seeing how scandalously the League of Nations repudiated its own primary purpose, and declined to intervene for the protection of Polish boundaries to which it was pledged, it is impossible to blame Poland for repudiating in turn the "ethnographic" boundaries which the Versailles Congress prescribed, and for seeking, pending Russia's acceptance of an armistice, the strongest strategic position she can find. Now she has requested the League of Nations to mediate between herself and the Lithuanians, to check if possible the aggressions of the latter.

To the incessant slaughter of men, women and children by recklessly driven automobiles has been added the menace, fulfilled with ominously increasing frequency, of like slaughter by aeroplanes. An aeroplane driven by two men recently cruised about over a great gathering of spectators at a tennis tournament, at a dangerously slight elevation. In the midst of its performances its engine gave out, and it was with great difficulty prevented from crashing down into the crowd, where it might easily have killed dozens of persons. As it was, it struck the ground just outside of the crowd, with such violence that it was completely wrecked and burned and both its occupants were killed. The incident elicited the startling discovery that there is no law forbidding aeronauts to cruise, as low down as they please, over crowds of people and over thronged thoroughfares of travel. Obviously a stringent law on the subject is urgently needed.